

Appl. No. 10/624,017
Atty. Docket No. P-124C2
Amdt. Dated October 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2004
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled).
Claim 2 (canceled).
Claim 3 (canceled).
Claim 4 (canceled).
Claim 5 (canceled).
Claim 6 (canceled).
Claim 7 (canceled).
Claim 8 (canceled).
Claim 9 (canceled).
Claim 10 (canceled).
Claim 11 (canceled).
Claim 12 (canceled).
Claim 13 (canceled).
Claim 14 (canceled).
Claim 15 (canceled).
Claim 16 (canceled).
Claim 17 (canceled).
Claim 18 (canceled).
Claim 19 (canceled).
Claim 20 (canceled).
Claim 21 (canceled).
Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (new): A process for controlling fecal hair excretion and trichobezoar formation in an animal comprising feeding the animal a composition comprising from about 10% to about 42% crude protein, from about 4% to about 30% fat, from about 1% to about 25% total dietary fiber, all by weight of the composition, and a supplemental fiber source.

Claim 24 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the composition comprises from about 1% to about 13% of supplemental total dietary fiber, by weight of the composition.

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Claim 25 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the supplemental fiber source is selected from the group consisting of at least one fermentable fiber; a blend of at least two fermentable fibers; a blend of at least one fermentable fiber and a cellulose ether; a blend of at least one fermentable fiber, a cellulose ether, and mineral oil; and a blend of at least one fermentable fiber and at least one non-fermentable fiber.

Claim 26 (new): The process according to Claim 25 wherein the fermentable fiber(s) comprise a fiber selected from the group consisting of beet pulp, gum arabic, fructooligosaccharides, and blends thereof.

Claim 27 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the supplemental fiber source comprises a blend of beet pulp and carboxymethylcellulose.

Claim 28 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the supplemental fiber source comprises a blend of beet pulp, carboxymethylcellulose, and mineral oil.

Claim 29 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the supplemental fiber source comprises a blend of beet pulp and cellulose.

Claim 30 (new): The process according to Claim 24 wherein the supplemental fiber source comprises beet pulp.

Claim 31 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the composition comprises from about 6% to about 12% of supplemental total dietary fiber, by weight of the composition.

Claim 32 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the composition comprises from about 10% to about 12% of supplemental total dietary fiber, by weight of the composition.

Claim 33 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the composition comprises about 6% beet pulp, about 2% gum arabic, and about 1.5% fructooligosaccharides, all by weight of the composition.

Claim 34 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the composition comprises about 6% beet pulp and about 1.5% carboxymethylcellulose, all by weight of the composition.

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Claim 35 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the composition comprises about 6% beet pulp and about 6.5% cellulose, all by weight of the composition.

Claim 36 (new): The process according to Claim 23 wherein the composition comprises about 12% beet pulp, by weight of the composition.